

Mpra language

Mpra, or **Mpre**, is an extinct language spoken in the village of Butei (8°52′N 1°15′W) in central Ghana, located between the towns of Techiman and Tamale near the confluence of the Black and White Voltas. Mpra has been difficult to classify due to its divergent vocabulary. It is known only from a 70-word list given in a 1931 article. Blench (2007) considers it to be a possible language isolate.^[3] A poorly attested language spoken in the nearby village of Tuluwe, Mpur, may also turn out to be yet another language isolate. Both Butie and Tuluwe are located near the village of Mpaha.

Painter (1967) briefly states that "mpɛ́ɛ́ has died" and that the ethnic group ("the Nnyamase-**mpɛ́ɛ́**") have "become Nnyamase-Gonja"; he appears to regard it as having been a dialect of Gonja. However, this is based only on the numerals, which are clearly related to Gonja. The rest of the vocabulary is "hard to recognise" (Williamson & Blench, 2000:36). Blench (2010) presents it as a possible Kwa language; Blench (2012) notes that it "may either be an isolate with [Kwa] borrowings or a highly divergent branch of Kwa".^[4]

Mpra	
Mpre	
Pronunciation	mpɛ́ɛ́
Native to	Ghana
Extinct	mid-20th century ^[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo? <div></div> <div>▪ Kwa?</div> <div></div> <div>▪ Mpra</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	mpra1235 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mpra1235) ^[2]

Bibliography

- Blench, Roger. 2010. "Why is Africa so Linguistically Undiverse?".^[1] (<http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Africa/General/African%20linguistic%20diversity%20and%20the%20issue%20of%20substrates.pdf>) *Language Isolates in Africa* workshop, Lyon, December 3–4
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- Painter, Colin. 1967. "The Distribution of Guang in Ghana, and a Statistical Pre-Testing on Twenty-Five Idiolects," *The Journal of West African Languages*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Cambridge University Press, Ibadan, pp. 25–78.

References

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- Blench, Roger (2007) *Recovering data on Mpra [=Mpre] a possible language isolate in North-Central Ghana* (<http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/projets/clhass/PageWeb/ressources/Isolats/Mpra%20%20Blench%202007.pdf>)
- Roger Blench, *Niger-Congo: an alternative view* (<http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/General/Niger-Congo%20an%20alternative%20view.pdf>)

External links

- Blench, Roger (1999) *Recent Field Work in Ghana: Report on Dompō and a note on Mpre* (<http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/projets/clhass/PageWeb/ressources/Isolats/Dompō%20Blench199>

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